

REMARKS

Claims 40, 41, 43, 44, and 46-49 are pending in this application. Claim 40 has been amended to include the word "isolated" to show the hands of man. Claims 40 and 49 have been amended to delete a redundant option and to clarify that the methionine at position -1 in amended part (c) is in addition to the amino acid sequence specified in part (b). These amendments do not change the scope of the claims. In addition, the specification has been amended in view of the information submitted by Applicants in this application on March 20, 2001.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the timely allowance of the pending claims.

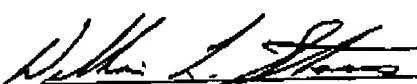
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 6, 2003

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